

ELA 7

WITH MRS. MILLER

ABOUT THE CLASS

Welcome to 7th grade ELA! This year, we will explore a variety of texts, from poetry to nonfiction. Expect to read and write every day in class. We will utilize the CommonLit 360 curriculum this year, filled with short stories, poems, and nonfiction. We will read *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.

ESSENTIAL STANDARDS

- **RRL/RI 7.1:** Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- **RL 7.3:** Analyze elements of a story and how the elements influence each other.
- **W 7.9:** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

MATERIALS

Students should bring:

- Binder w/a section for ELA or an ELA folder
- Pens, pencils & highlighters
- School laptop & charger
- Book for DAILY independent reading (any book at all, from anywhere at all!)
- Wired headphones

SEMESTER 1 UNITS OF STUDY

UNIT 1: COMMUNITY & BELONGING

Students will read fiction, nonfiction, and poetry about what makes a community, the struggle to belong, and navigating multiple communities.

ASSESSMENT:
Literary analysis
essay

UNIT 2: ADOLESCENCE

Students will read articles, stories, and poems about teens navigating this time in their lives. They'll learn about changes that occur in the adolescent brain and consider how these changes influence teen behavior and decisions.

ASSESSMENT:
Literary analysis
essay

UNIT 3: NOVEL STUDY - BROWN GIRL DREAMING

While students build important historical knowledge, they consider how Woodson was influenced by the people and events in the world around her and share their ideas through discussion and writing.

ASSESSMENT:
Literary analysis
essay

CLASSROOM POLICIES

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

- Formative assessments will be given a few times each quarter to track progress on our essential standards. These cannot be retaken, but do not count toward your grade.
- Retakes & redos encouraged for scores below 70%.
- **Canvas:** current assignments, what's turned in, and rubrics.
- **Skyward:** accurate grade information, used for eligibility.
- Work not completed in class becomes **homework** due the next class period.

LATE & MISSING WORK

- All work assigned during a unit is due by the end of that unit.
- During the current unit, work is accepted late without penalty.
- Once a unit ends, no work from within it will be accepted.
- If you are absent, you are responsible for any work you missed. You have two school days for each day missed to turn in work you missed.
- Check Canvas & email me when you have to miss class!

AI & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

If you receive help or take information from an article, book, website (i.e. an AI tool), another person, etc., you must cite your source. When you take credit for someone else's work, it is plagiarism.

All work in this class is expected to be your own, completed by you.

- **First offense** – automatic zero with a chance to redo the assignment
- **Second offense** – email/phone call home, automatic zero with a chance to redo the assignment
- **Third offense** – disciplinary referral, email/phone call home, automatic zero with no chance to redo

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

We use **CHAMPS** to communicate expectations daily.

- Conversations, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation, and Success criteria will be posted daily.
- Consequences for not meeting expectations: reflection form, loss of privileges, detention, parent conference, referral to assistant principal/principal.
- Parents will be contacted in each of these instances.

CLASS VALUES

Follow the **Ways of the Wolf**

Respectful
Responsible
Safe

Take responsibility for your own learning and maintain a positive attitude.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

Families can support students by:

- Encouraging regular reading at home
- Asking about our current unit
- Supporting homework routines, including use of WIN and Timberwolf Success Program (T, W, Th til 4:30).
- Celebrating effort and improvement in all areas
- Partnering with us when needed

CONTACT

If you have any questions throughout the year, please contact me. I am available from 7:35–3:35 during school days.

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